

A photograph of Joe Biden and Moon Jae-in at a press conference. Biden is on the left, wearing a dark suit and a blue and white striped tie, speaking into two microphones. Moon Jae-in is on the right, wearing a dark suit and a blue tie, smiling and looking towards Biden. They are standing behind a dark podium with the Seal of the President of the United States on it. In the background, the American flag and the South Korean flag are visible.

KEI: 2021 Report on American Attitudes towards the U.S.-ROK Alliance and North Korea Policy

2021 Report on American Attitudes on the U.S.-ROK Alliance and North Korea Policy

KEI's 2021 Report on American Attitudes on the U.S.-ROK Alliance and North Korea Policy summarizes results from a survey commissioned by KEI and conducted by YouGov on May 6th to May 10th, 2021 in advance of the U.S.-ROK summit on May 21st, 2021. The survey asked Americans their views on the U.S.-South Korea relationship, North Korea policy, and the U.S.' role in the East Asian region.

The surveyed group of 1,000 respondents was weighted to reflect a nationally representative sample of U.S. adults (18 years and older). The margin of error of the survey is +/- 3.54.



Survey conducted from May 6th to May 10th, 2021



Average Survey Length: 6 minutes, 31 seconds

Demographics: By Sample Type



Education

High school or less	38%
Some college	32%
4-year	19%
Post-grad	11%



Family Income



Less than 10,000	9%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	8%
\$20,000 - \$49,999	25%
\$50,000 - \$99,999	26%
\$100,000 or More	15%
Prefer not say	15%

Region

Northeast	18%
Midwest	20%
South	39%
West	23%

Age



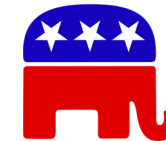
18-29	21%
30-49	25%
50-64	33%
65 or older	20%

Ethnicity

White	64%
Hispanic	16%
Black	12%
Asian	2%
Other	6%



Political Party



Democrat	34%
Republican	26%
Independent	30%
Other/Not Sure	11%

Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%





KEY INSIGHTS: Americans' General Views on South and North Korea

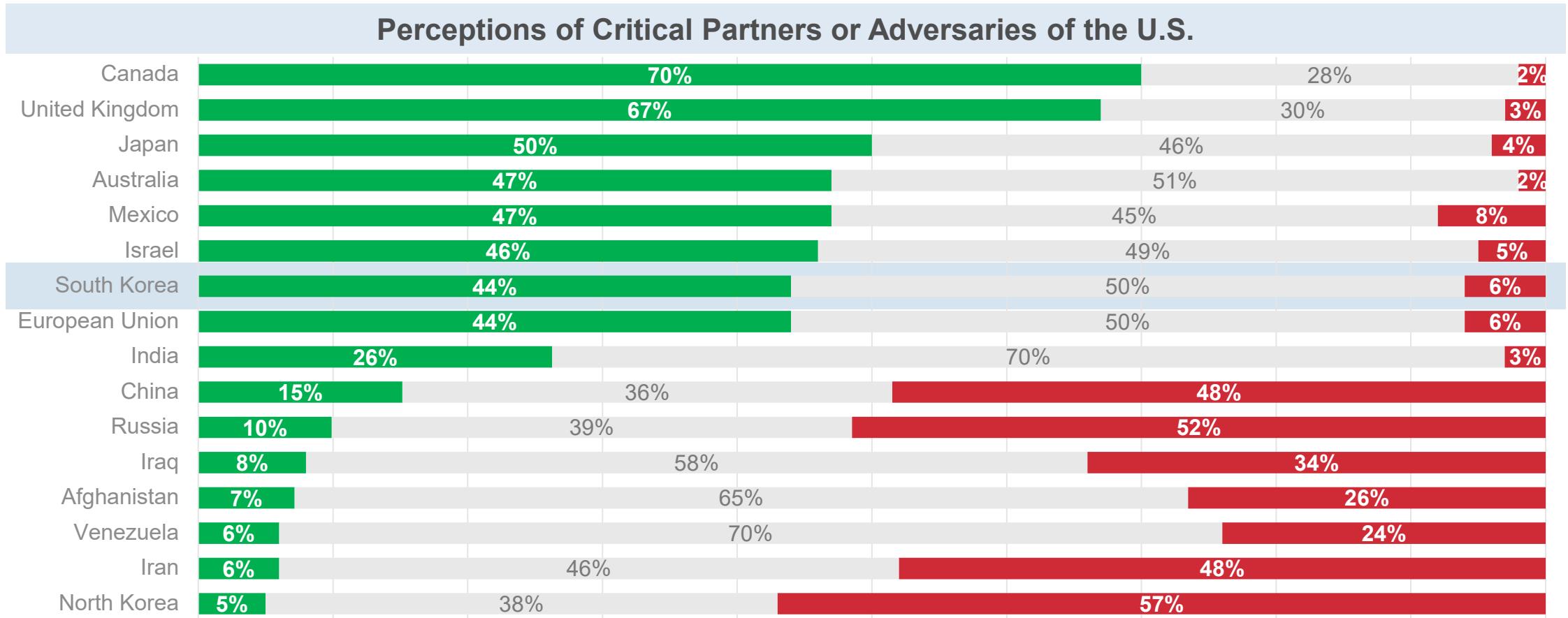
- 61% of Americans have a “very favorable” or “favorable” view of South Korea. Only 13% of Americans have an “unfavorable” or “not at all favorable” view of South Korea, and 27% of respondents answered “not sure.”
 - There was a slight decrease in the share of Americans who held a “very favorable” or “favorable” view of South Korea from 66% in the 2020 KEI-YouGov survey.
 - 44% of Americans view South Korea as a critical partner of the U.S.
- 69% of Americans, including with strong bipartisan approval, support the U.S. following South Korea’s lead in denuclearization talks with North Korea, with 61% of Americans feeling it is important for the U.S. and South Korea to cooperate on North Korea related issues.
 - 75% of Americans say it is “very important” or “important” for the U.S. to reach an agreement with North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons.
 - 54% of Americans support a preliminary deal with North Korea that partially dismantles its nuclear weapons capabilities. 13% would not support such a deal and 34% are not sure.
 - 57% of Americans view North Korea as an adversary, which was the highest percentage among available country options which also included China (48%), Russia (52%), and Iran (48%).

KEY INSIGHTS: Americans' Views on U.S. role in East Asia

- 65% of Americans think the U.S. should work with other nations to manage China's growing military and economic influence in East Asia. 6% said the U.S. should work alone and 8% said the U.S. should take no action.
 - Among presented critical foreign policy challenge options that the U.S. should address, the top choice was the ongoing COVID-19 crisis (40%) followed by competition with China (24%). While only 15% of Americans ranked North Korea's nuclear capabilities as the top critical challenge to the U.S., 68% of respondents ranked it as one of the top three challenges among the five presented.
- 37% of Americans said the U.S. should play a role in reducing tensions between South Korea and Japan, with 28% of Americans indicating the U.S. should not play a role and 34% responding, "not sure."

44% of Americans view South Korea as a “critical partner” to the U.S.

Of the listed countries, North Korea had the lowest number of respondents who saw it as a “critical partner” at 5%, and the higher number of respondents who saw it as an “adversary” at 57%.

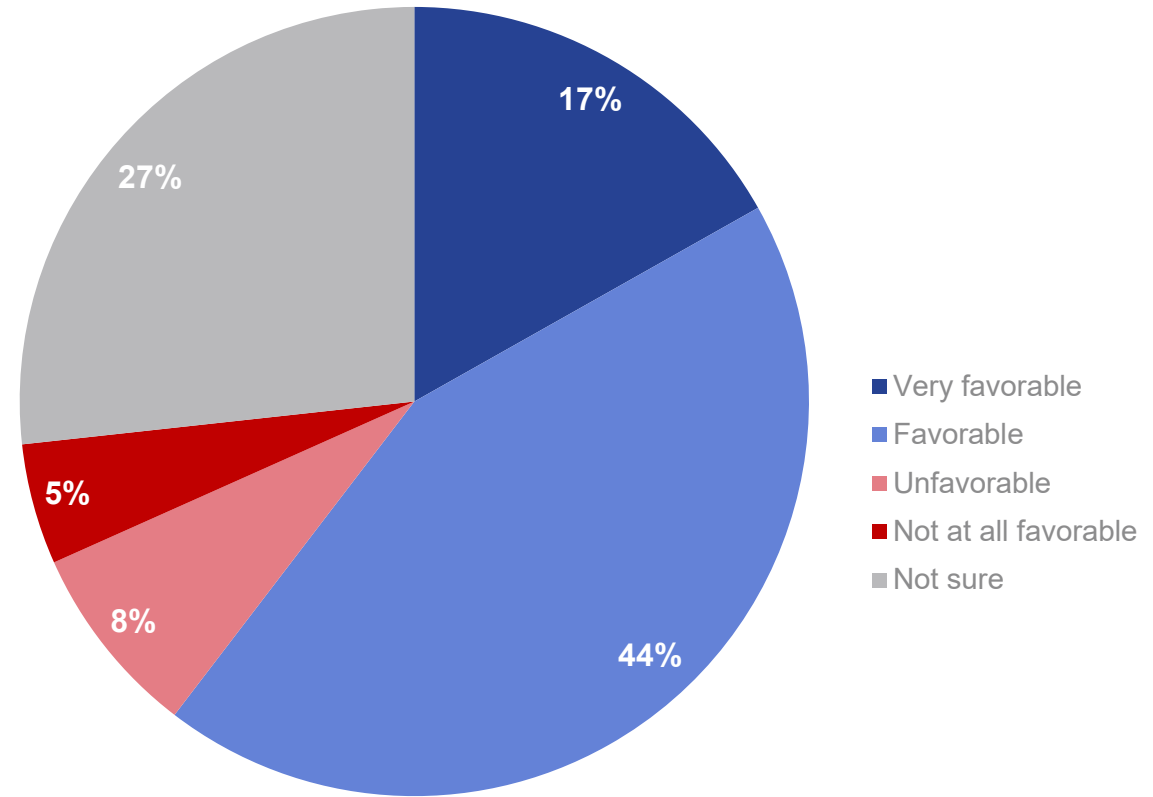


61% of Americans have a “very favorable” or “favorable” view of South Korea.



There was a slight decrease in the share of Americans who held a “very favorable” or “favorable” view of South Korea from 66% in the 2020 KEI-YouGov survey.

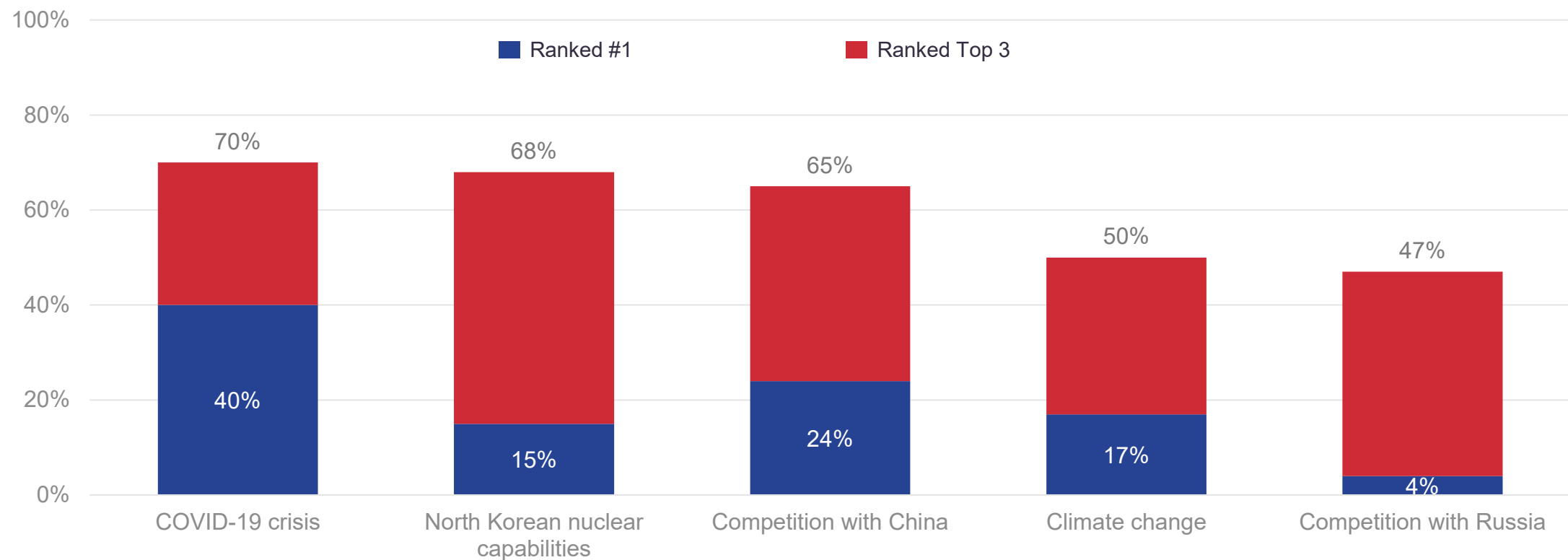
Favorable or unfavorable opinion of South Korea



Of five presented foreign policy issues that the U.S. should address, North Korean nuclear capabilities were ranked as a top 3 issue by 68% of Americans.

Only 15% of Americans ranked North Korean nuclear capabilities as the top issue.

Critical foreign policy challenges that the U.S. should address



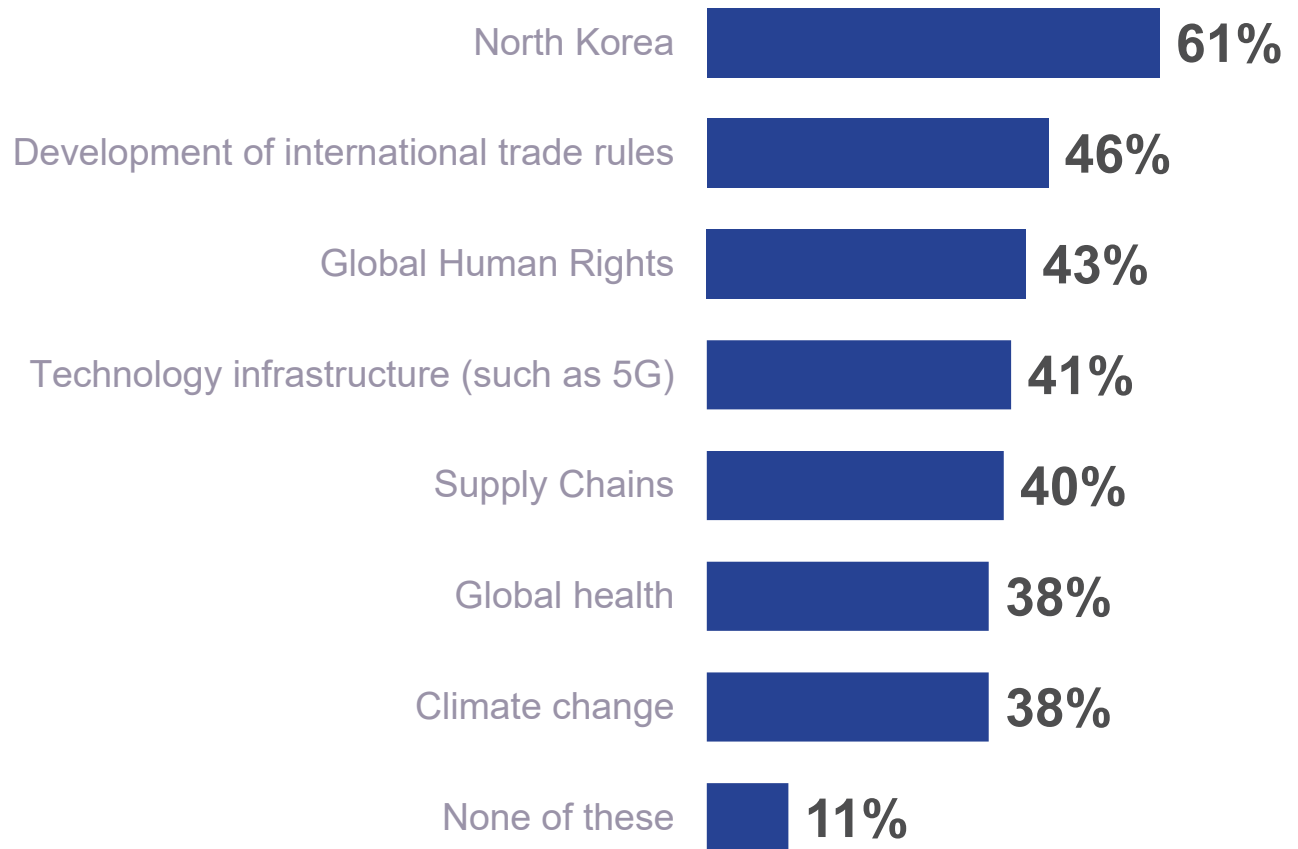
61% of Americans feel it is important for the U.S. and South Korea to cooperate on North Korea related issues.



Compared to Republicans, Democrats are significantly more likely to want to see cooperation on:

- Global health (51% vs. 26%)
- Climate change (60% vs 12%)
- Global Human Rights (58% vs. 31%)

Issues that U.S. and South Korea Should Cooperate On

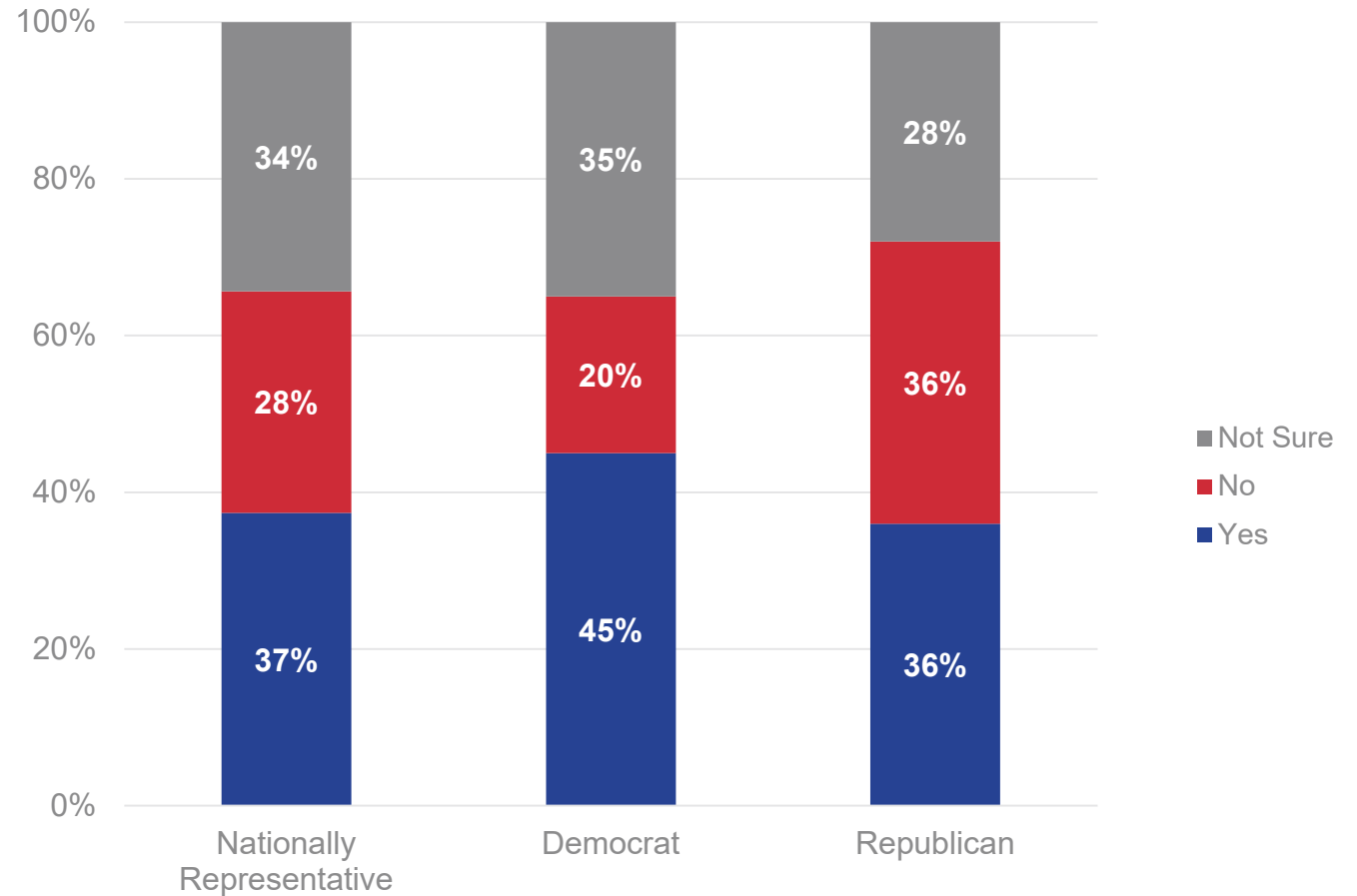


37% of Americans said the U.S. should play a role in reducing tensions between South Korea and Japan.

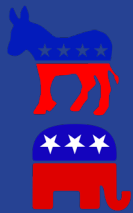


Democrats are more likely to be in favor of a U.S. role (45%), while Republicans are more likely to not support a U.S. role (36%)

U.S. role in reducing tensions between South Korea and Japan

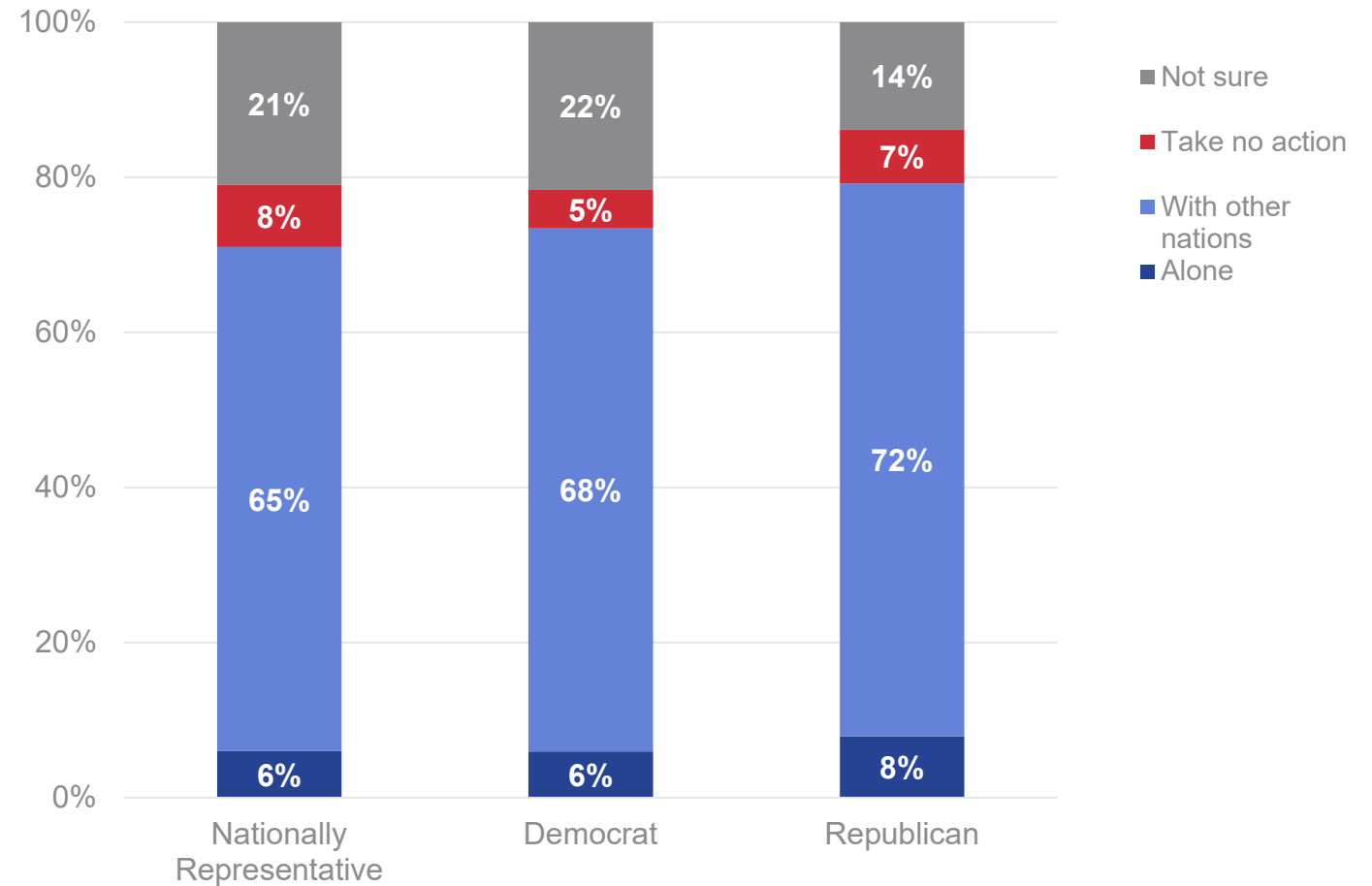


65% of Americans think the U.S. should work with other nations to manage China's growing military and economic influence in East Asia.



Both Democrats (68%) and Republicans (72%) largely agree that the U.S. should manage China “with other nations.”

U.S. role in managing China

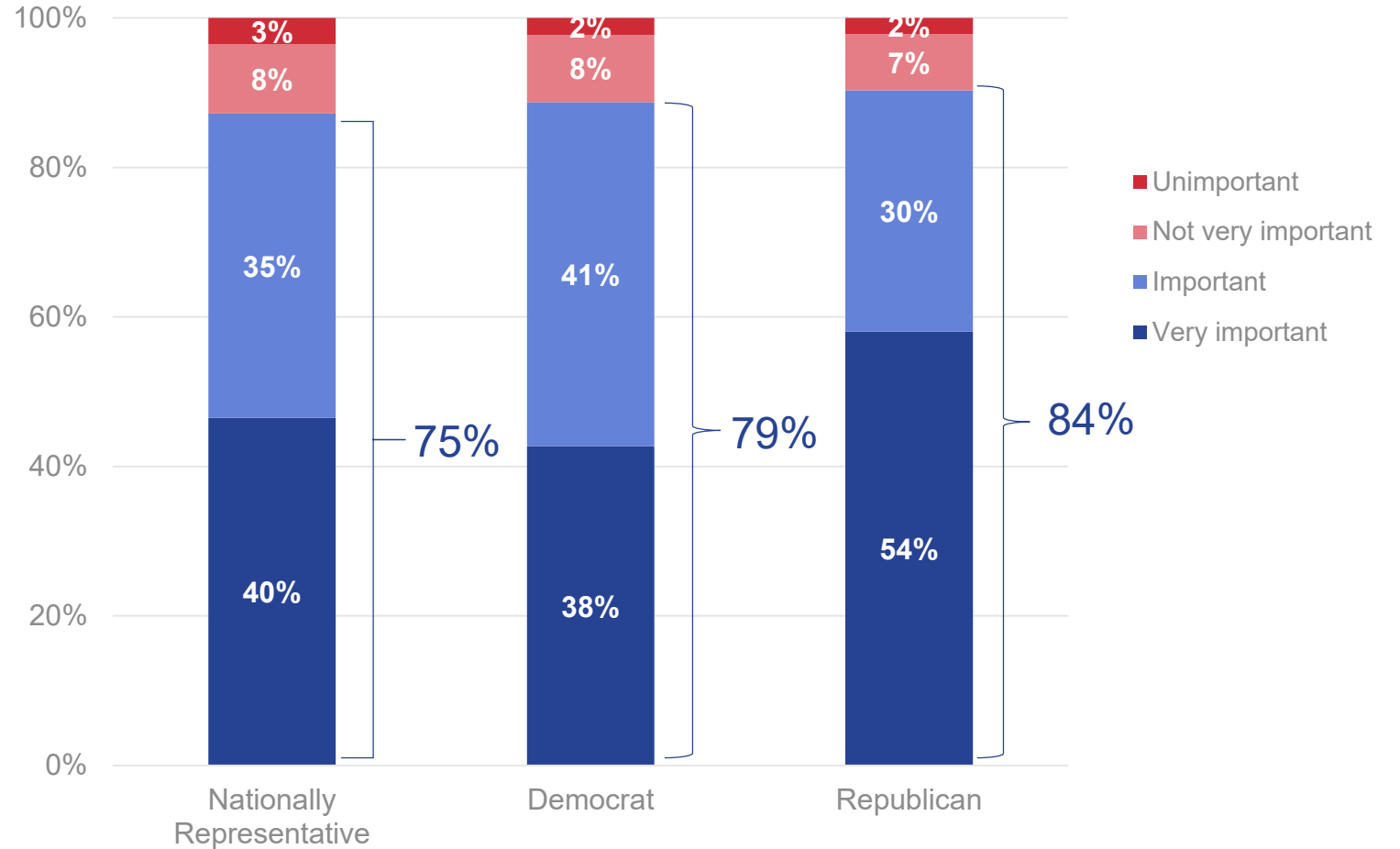


75% of Americans say it is “very important” or “important” for the U.S. to reach an agreement with North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons.

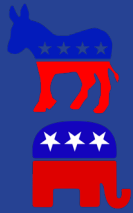


This is consistent across both Republicans (84%) and Democrats (79%).

Agreement with North Korea to dismantle nuclear weapons

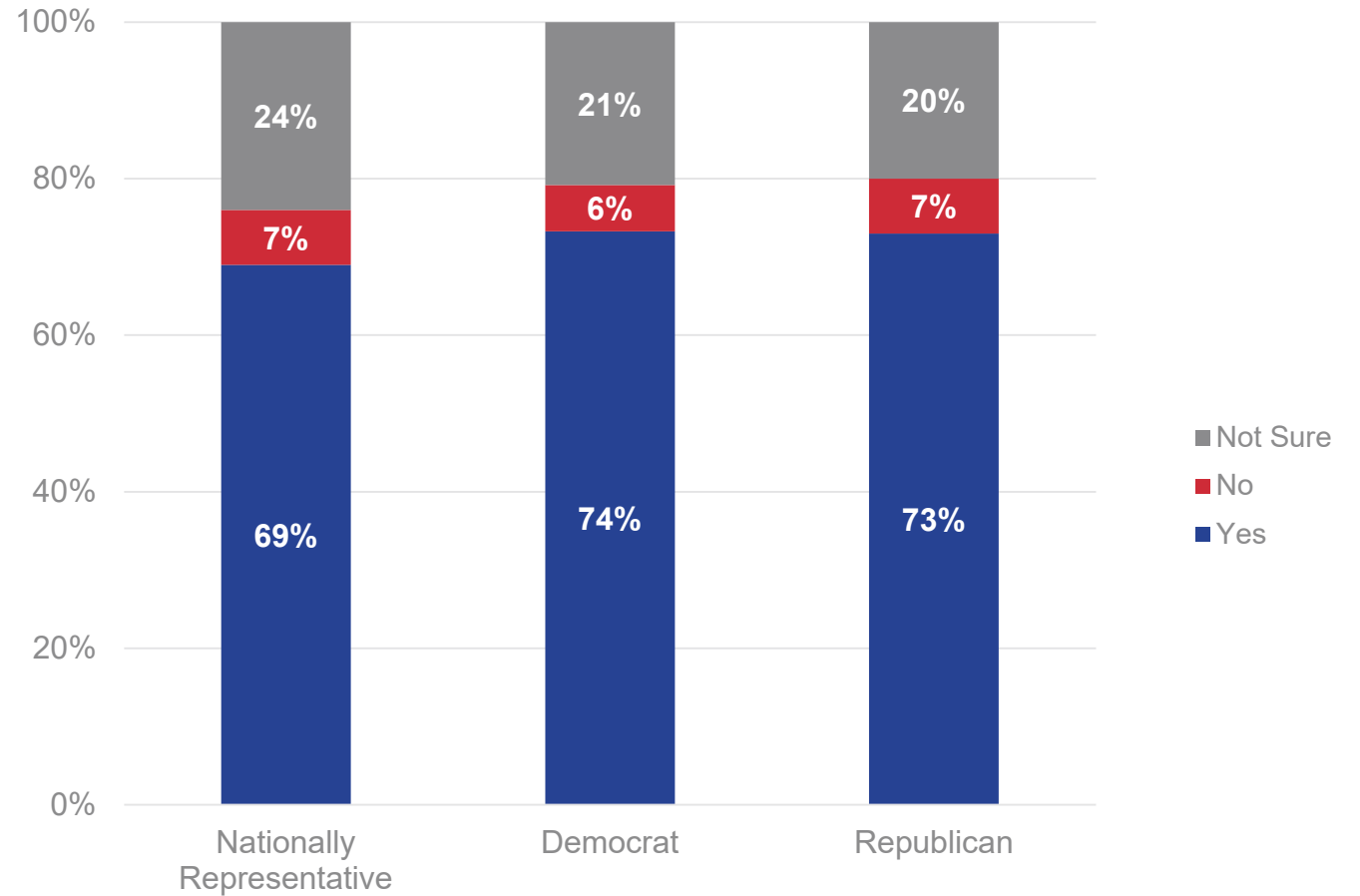


69% of Americans support the U.S. following South Korea's lead in denuclearization talks with North Korea.

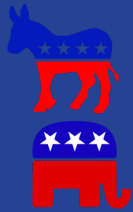


There is strong bipartisan support from both Republicans (73%) and Democrats (74%).

Support the U.S. following South Korea's denuclearization talks

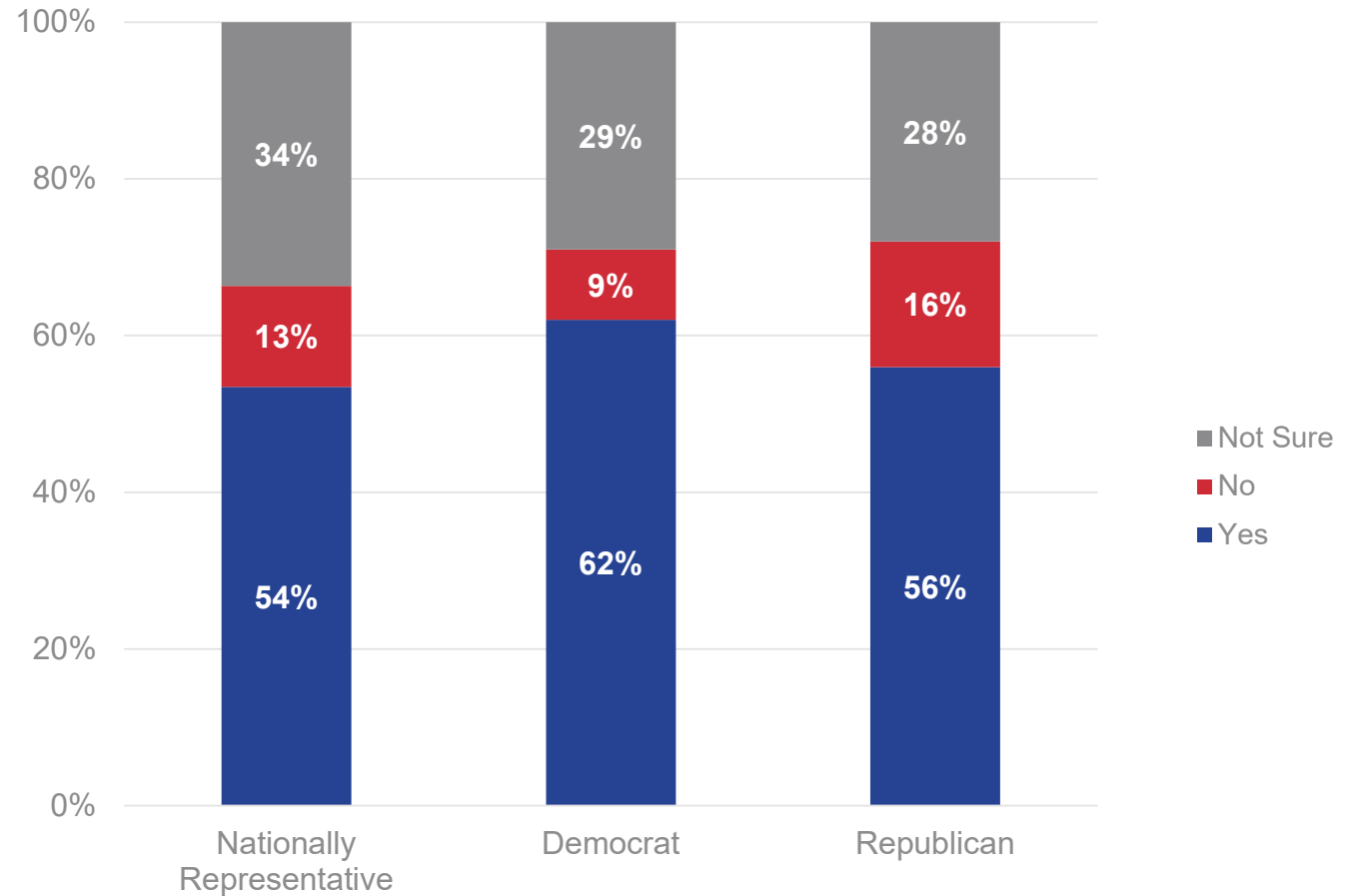


54% of Americans support a preliminary deal with North Korea that partially dismantles its nuclear weapons capabilities



Democrats are more likely to support a deal (62%) and Republicans are more likely to not support it (16%).

Support deal with North Korea that partially dismantles nuclear weapons



Thank You